



# THE SPRINGBOK NEWSLETTER



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This Publication is issued under the Authority of

Lt-Col. J. F. Merner, CD,  
Commanding Officer,  
Royal Canadian Dragoons

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Lt-Col. J.F. Merner, CD

After various vicissitudes, it gives me great pleasure to see the "Springbok", although in different form, once more in our midst. Since the last appearance of the intrepid animal, its jumps must now increase and we will see it in Germany. I hope to see it more than once a year, as "Dragoons" now move about at such high rates of speed, it is with increasing difficulty that the Regimental Family hears of one another.

The Regiment has had a good year, both in organization and training and I take this opportunity to thank all ranks for their continuous support. This is not only apparent to me, but, also to our friends from the Reserve Force. At the recent meeting of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Association, the thanks of the Brigades and Regiments who served with us during the summer of 1952 were written into the minutes of that Association.

Good luck to all Dragoons, both with the Regiment and those who fly the Springbok outside the gates of Camp Petawawa.

## ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS HIGHLIGHTS

(1 Jun 51 - 30 Sep 52)

### June

Lt-Col J. F. Merner, CD became Commanding Officer of the Royal Canadian Dragoons on 31 May 51 when Lt-Col J. G. H. Wattsford left to become Commanding Officer of the Officer Candidate School, Camp Borden.

Captain A. D. M. Matheson became adjutant when Captain P B V Grieve left for 'D Org' Army Headquarters on the 17 Jun 51.

Lt-Col Stone Commanding Officer of the 2nd Bn PPCLI addressed the officers of Camp Petawawa at the Grenade Theatre, on his experiences in Korea.

The Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Brooke Claxton with a party of fifty members of Parliament were in Camp Petawawa on June 27 to inspect Panda force personnel and to witness the Fire Power Demonstration.

Brigadier G Walsh visited Camp Petawawa on 22 June 51 as Commander of 27 CIB, and addressed the personnel of "C" Squadron RCD.

The June Ball was held on 16 June, at which time Lt-Col Merner, the new Commanding Officer was given a hearty welcome. Guests present included Col. and Mrs. D K Todd, and Lt-Col and Mrs J F Bingham. Inscribed pen sets were presented to Major Bell and Captain P V B Grieves who were leaving the regiment for duty elsewhere.

### July

Major G W Pearce became second-in-command of the RCDs when Major F S Corbeau left for the RAC School, Bovington, England, on July 9th.

The Royal Canadian Dragoons provided a ninety man guard of Honour for Major-General Cham Ras Ram Ram the Officer Commanding Thailand Reserve Forces.

A party representing the Canadian and United States press were visitors to Camp Petawawa on 26 Jul 51. The party was taken on a tour of the RCAc area and witnessed the Fire Power Demonstration.

### September

The Royal Canadian Dragoons entered the Track and Field Meet at Vimy Kingston, on this date.

The RCD 440 relay team won that event. Sgts Price and Crawford, Tpr Hore and Lieut Lafleur made up the team. They were five seconds below the track record (48.8).

The RCD 880 relay team placed second in this event. The RCD Tug-of-War team lost out in the finals after winning two pulls. The RCD unofficial entry in the three mile run was L/Cpl Kerr who set a new track record for the event. Lieut Jenkins placed third and first in the 220 and 440 yard dash respectively.

The Minister of Defence, and the Chief of Staff for Norway were visitors in Camp Petawawa on 20 Sep 51. They inspected "C" Sqn Royal Canadian Dragoons in harbour at Jorgens Hill and were entertained in the Officers Mess afterwards.

### October

A "Stag" Dinner was held for Lt-Col J F Merner, who was to be married shortly thereafter. Presentations included a liquor service, with an inscribed tray; a "medal", with a lengthy citation of deeds and misdeeds, and a mock Part II Order.

The reception for Lt-Col and Mrs Merner was held in the mess on 8 October the date of their wedding. Cocktails and an enjoyable buffet dinner was served. About 150 guests were in attendance, including the mother and father of both the bride and groom.

The Remembrance day Services and the opening of the New Pembroke Memorial Centre were supplied with a thirty man guard of honour, a firing party, and three trumpeters from the regiment.

The DRAC Major General N W Duncan, CBE, DSO, visited the RCD on 8 Nov 51.

### December

"C" Squadron under the command of Major G H Pratt, CD left Camp Petawawa for Germany on the night of 6 Dec 1951 as the Armoured element of the 27th CIB.

Christmas Day was celebrated quietly in the various RCD messes.

### 1952

#### January

New Years Day - The holiday spirit has taken over customary inter-mess visiting.

Capt J G Murphy Unit Training Officer was SOS to Army Headquarters to be GSO III at Br. of G.S.

WO 1 H W Price, MBE became RSM of the Royal Canadian Dragoons on 4 Jan 52.

Royal Canadian Dragoons supply Honour Guard for the Rt.Hon. W. S. Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain. The guard consisted of Capt D H Morgan, 2/Lt's Elliott and Jenkings, WO 1 (RSM) Price and 100 men.

Major General H D Graham, CBE, DSO, ED, General Officer Commanding Central Command arrived at this unit for the Annual Inspection.

Major Milbrath arrived at Camp Petawawa from Camp Borden. He will leave Officer Commanding 1st Armoured Squadron, RCAC.

Royal Canadian Dragoons hockey team entered in the Camp League.

Mr C L S Cope from the UK Information Office gave a lecture to the officers, on the European Unity Programme.

#### February

The Military Co-operation Committee visited Camp Petawawa for their conference and were guests of the Officers Mess Royal Canadian Dragoons.

King George VI died in the early morning of 6 Feb. RCD commence court mourning.

At 1300 hrs 7 Feb Canada recognized Elizabeth Regina II as Queen of the Dominion of Canada.

The RCD Hockey team won the semi-finals in the Service Hockey League.

1 Bn RCR defeated RCD to win finals in the Service Hockey League.

15 Feb, in London, England King George VI was laid to rest in the Royal Crypt at St. Georges Chapel, Windsor.

Camp Petawawa Memorial Ceremony Parade took place at 1700 hrs, 15 FEB, Col D Douglas Commanding. At this parade the Guidon, and trumpets of the RCD and the King's Colour of the RCR had the black crepe mourning ribbon removed. Two minutes silence was observed, Last Post and Reveille were sounded; and then the trumpeters played "God Save the Queen" on the Royal Salute.

An RCD Guard of Honour was present at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa for the National Ceremony of Mourning for His late Majesty King George VI. The Guard Commander was Capt J P Roy; the Guard Sgt-Major WO2 Getty J.

A RCD Honour Guard was sent to Ottawa for Field Marshall Lord Alexander KC, GCB, GCMB, CSI, DSO, MC, LLD, on his departure from Ottawa enroute to the UK. The Guard Commander - Capt J P Roy, the Guard Sgt-Major - WO 2 Getty J.

Mr P M Aqarioala, Information Officer for the Officer of the High Commissioner for India, spoke on "India and S.E. Asia". This was one of a series of Current Affairs lectures given to all Officers in Camp Petawawa.

#### March

Capt Matheson, Adjutant, Royal Canadian Dragoons on duty in Toronto attended the "Youth of Canada rally military day".

The RCAC School defeated the RCDs and went on to win the Inter Corps Hockey finals played at Calgary.

The Hon. F M Forde, High Commissioner for Australia, gave a Current Affairs lecture to the Officers. His subject, Australia's Foreign Policy and S.E. Asia Affairs.

Effective 29 Mar 1 Armd Sqn RCAC became "D" Squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons.

#### April

A cocktail party and buffet supper was held in the Officers Mess in honour of the Regiment's new Honorary-Colonel - Major-General C C Mann, CBE, DSO, CD.

Mr H Masan Wade, of the U.S. Embassy spoke on U.S. Foreign Policy.

St. Georges Chapel (Prot) was officially opened 20 Apr by the Adjutant General.

#### May

Pembroke Cadet Corps had their annual inspection on the RCD parade square. Capt E A Howey, CD, C.T.O. and Col D Douglas, OBE, CD, inspected the Corps.

CASC (Canadian Army Staff College) directive staff and students from CASC arrived at Camp Petawawa 7 May at 1900 hours for a tour of the camp.

#### June

A Sqn went under canvas in the training area, to start six weeks of squadron training.

The OR's held their annual June Ball in the Camp Community Centre.

Representatives of the United States Press were guests in Camp Petawawa. "B" Sqn provided a troop shoot at Trig. Pt. "H".

Officers held June Ball 14 June. Major General C C Mann, CBE, DSO, CD, Honorary Colonel of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was guest of honour.

Major Price arrived at Camp Petawawa to be Officer Commanding "... Sqn, Royal Canadian Dragoons.

Preparations were in full swing for the arrival of Summer Camp.

A Regimental Smoker was held in the Drill Hall. Entertainment was provided from Ottawa. A Buffet luncheon and other refreshments were available to all.

July

Col J G H Wattsford, CD arrived from RCAC School and will stay with the Regiment during his visit to Camp Petawawa.

The RCD provided the guard of honour for Lt-General O Poyenaut of the French Army. Commanded by Capt J P Roy and Lieut P M D'Amour.

The VI Hussars sponsored a mess dinner in the Summer Camp Officers Mess at 1900 hrs 18 Jul for officers of the RCDs who worked with the Summer Camp.

The National Film Board filmed a strip on Army Transport. "B" Sqn provided the vehicles. 2/Lt McCullough was the officer in charge of the convoy.

August

"B" Sqn left present location and commenced training under canvas in the field.

"D" Sqn left present location and commenced training under canvas in the field.

12 Aug the regiment took part in the unveiling of the Cairn Ceremonies, which commemorate the first military aircraft flight in Canada. (Silver Dart).

One of the original pilots, The Honorable J A D McCurdy, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia was present. Also present were Defence Minister, Honorable Brook Claxton, General A G L McNaughton, Rear Admiral DeWolfe, Air Chief Marshal Curtis, Major General Clarke, Major General Graham. Also invited were various members of the air research councils past and present.

After the ceremony Luncheon was held in the RCD Officers Mess.

Lts Wheeler and Rasmussen, Cpl Czuroske and Dorman left to set up the RCAC display at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. This display featured the new Centurion Tank.

The Regimental Sports Day opened with a March Past of Athletes participating, led by RCD Trumpet Band. Lt-Col J F Merner, CD took the salute. A and B Sqns tied for first place.

A parade was held 30 August for the Regiment's Honorary Colonel Major General C C Mann, CBE, DSO, CD.

After the parade a cocktail party and Buffet Luncheon was held in the Officers Mess.

The RCD Sergeants held their re-union dinner at which the Honorary Colonel Major General C C Mann, CBE, DSO, CD, addressed those present.

September

Brigadier Rockingham visited Camp Petawawa on Sep 11. While here he carried out an inspection of the RCD Unit Lines.

RCD Officers held their annual re-union. Among the many guests present were: Major General C C Mann, CBE, DSO, CD; Colonel Chubb, DSO, CD; Lt-Col. Massey (The Royals), and Lt-Col W G A Lambe, ED.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

The first month of this report was primarily taken up with routine squadron duties. There was however a few postings, the odd promotion, and one parade. Lieut P O Desjardins transferred to RCAFPC and Tpr Garrow D M left for Korea. 2/Lieut K G Campbell was the sole promotion during the month; he is now Lieut. K G Campbell. Incidentally for the interest of the sports minded Lieut Campbell became the Squadron Sports Officer during this month. We are not sure if it had anything to do with his recent promotion or not.

During the month of April the new St. George's Chapel was dedicated. Headquarters Squadron paraded 50 all ranks on this significant occasion.

The following personnel from H.Q. Sqn returned from Camp Borden in April, Captain J P Roy returned to the Squadron after taking the ABC W course at the RCAMC School; Tprs Bernard CA, Edling W S, Galbraith A A, McCart H H, and Stocker H A , successfully completed the Driver Operator's Course at the School.

The month of May followed a pattern very similar to the preceding month. One of the main indications of Spring was the arrival of the C.O.T.C. Headquarters Squadron was fortunate in having the services of Officer Cadet's C R Parkinson, C G Kitchen, and J W Blain.

New Supervising Officers for the Mens' Canteen were appointed. Captain M H Watson was appointed President and Lieut J M Wilder, Secretary. SSM Getty J was appointed President of the Sergeants' Mess.

Lieut K S D Corsan left the Squadron on posting to Army Headquarters.

Preparation went ahead favourably during the month for the Regimental Smoker to be held in June. Tprs Jahraus H, and Harris IAG were in charge of the decorating. The excellent result was that the old drill hall was almost impossible to recognize on the night of the Smoker.

June was literally introduced with a bang, as it was at this time that Headquarters Squadron held its annual range practice. It was safe to assume from some of the results that considerable more practice is necessary if the chaps want to be in shape when the hunting season opens in the fall.

We are glad to report that Lieut K S D Corsan, who was posted to Army Headquarters has been promoted to Captain.

Two men returned to HQ Sqn from the RCAC School at Camp Borden after successfully completing the Driver Mechanic (Track) course. They were: Tprs Spurroll V G, and Saunders H L.

During the month of June the Squadron was deprived of one of its officers. Lieut K G Campbell left for the Regimental Officers Course at RMC.

Several June Balls were held, all of which were most successful. H.Q. Sqn participated either directly or indirectly in the preparation for these events.

The month of July was highlighted by the arrival of the first Centurion Tanks. They are at present retained in H.Q. Sqn under the CO's personal control.

In July the Regimental Softball league was in full swing with the team representing H.Q. Sqn holding its own.

One man returned from course during the month. Trooper McMillon J O from Camp Borden after completing a clerk (Adm) course.

August marked a change in command in H.Q. Sqn. Major C T Cuthbertson replaced Captain E Stelfox as Officer Commanding, Captain Stelfox became 2i/c.

A tabloid sports meet was held in August in preparation for the regimental meet. Sgmn Carey I M, and L/Cpl Shears C J tied for first place. Tpr Romeroy R W was second.

The Regiment was unfortunate during the month to have two of its officers hospitalized. Captain M H Watson, OC Sigs, and Lieut E L Wiseman, QM.

H.Q. Sqn took an active part in the Regimental Field Exercises held in September. The Squadron welcomed the opportunity for the brief fling at field training. Although the weather was not too cooperative a good show was put on by all who participated from the Squadron.

H.Q. Sqn lost its most capable Technical Adjutant in September. Lieut G E Lawrence cleared for the D & M (T) Centurian Conversion course at Camp Borden on 22 Sep 52. He was replaced by Lieut A J K Rasmussen.

September appears to be the month for reunions this year. Both the Officers and Sergeants messes held very successful reunions during the month.

The end of this report shows the Squadron to be in fine shape. Institutions are all progressing favourably. Many of the Sqn personnel are on course or slated for course either at the Regiment or at the RCAC School. In fact personnel have been selected for courses as far ahead as the New Year.

#### STANDING ORDERS DRIVER I/C WING

Always drive fast out of alleys, You might hit a policeman. There's no telling.

Always race with locomotives to crossings. Engineers like it. It breaks the monotony of their jobs.

Always pass the car ahead on curves or turns. Don't use the horn because it might unnerve the other fellow and cause him to turn out too far.

Demand half the road — the middle half.

Always lock your brakes when skidding. It makes the job more artistic. Often you can turn clear around.

Always drive close to pedestrians in wet weather. Dry Cleaners will erect a monument to your memory.

Always try to pass cars on a hill when it is possible. It shows your vehicle has more power and you can turn somewhere surely if you meet another car at the top.

Never look around when you back up. There is never anything behind your vehicle.

A few shots of hooch will enable you to make your vehicle do real stunts. For permanent results quaff long and deeply on the flowing bowl before taking the wheel.

Drive as fast as you can on wet pavements. There is always something to stop you if you lose control — often a heavy truck or a plate glass window.

New drivers should be shown how to drive fast in heavy traffic. It gives them the experience every motorist should have.

Always speed! It looks as though you are a man of pep, even though an amateur driver.

Never stop, look or listen at railroad crossings. It consumes valuable time, and besides, nobody believes in signs.

In wet weather always drive in trolley tracks. Its smoother going.

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## A SQUADRON ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

During the months of June, July and August of 1951, A Squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons, under command of Major C T Cuthbertson, was busily employed on the staff of the Reserve Force Summer Camp, Armoured Wing. This employment meant long hours and a great variety of jobs, such as: wireless operating, tank driving, truck driving, guarding and range work. The Squadron also was responsible for the feeding of these personnel in the field, which quite often meant feeding a few hundred men, providing plates, cups, bowls, etc. (mess tines were not used).

SSM "Taffy" Deeming was directly responsible that the above was carried out, rain or shine, without a flaw, sometimes moving meals and equipment fifteen miles outside the general training area to recce troops of Reserve Force operating in the Pembroke vicinity back areas. These operations necessitated, at times, a working day of from 0530 hrs in the morning until 0200 hrs the following morning. This was accomplished without a hitch, due to the efficiency and willingness of the squadron personnel.

Squadron gunner operators took an active part in Exercise Puncher, in the latter part of August, which was the climax to Summer Camp of 1951.

August was a blue month for the Squadron, as "Charlie" Squadron was preparing to take its place with the 27th Brigade. Naturally, they had to have the best; therefore, poor A Squadron was drained of N.C.O.s and troopers. Among the ones who went, were some of our crack athletes, which was a sad blow, as the Regimental Sports Day was only a month away.

As we were never lucky enough to get better than a second in sports, we had visions of being first this year; but it looked grim for us on sports day. However, through the keenness and sportsmanship of the few athletes we had left, we were satisfied to take second place again in the Regimental Sports.

We left the sports field with our battle cry: "We'll be back next year".

Then the great event of the year was upon us ..... namely, annual furlough.

Many lucky ones took advantage of the deer season in Camp, and, due to the marksmanship of squadron personnel, many juicy steaks were devoured in Camp.

We were never lucky enough to keep officers or squadron commanders for any period of time over a five year stretch: the squadron went through five squadron commanders, several captains and Lieutenants, and the loss of senior and junior N.C.O.s and men was terrific.

Once again Christmas and New Year's dinners and headaches were over and we emerged into the new year of 1952.

The winter months were taken up with a variety of fatigues, courses, sports and preparing for the occasional Guard of Honour.

Spring saw A Squadron preparing tanks and equipment ready to start training in the various areas as soon as the local terrain conditions permitted.

During this period, A Squadron put on a demonstration of a Battle Squadron for the members of the Staff College, complete in vehicles, men and equipment. This was a great success, thanks to many hours of hard work by the various ranks taking part.

In May the squadron packed up, bag and baggage, and marched from Camp to a harbour area where it went under canvas to carry out a six week period of operations and training. This training was

carried out in various stages, namely, crew, troop and squadron. Ample time was set aside for sports and games.

The Squadron was never in better shape than during this period. Physical fitness and preparedness was at an all-time high and we were the envy of all the other squadrons.

We finished off our Spring training with a Guard of Honour, in Ottawa, on two days notice, for Rt. Hon. Mr. Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain. Without any doubt, this was one of the best Guards ever put on by the Regiment, and great credit is due to all ranks privileged to participate in it. Of course, being an "A" Squadron Guard, nothing but the best was expected of it.

July, '52 once again saw us back at our old station of running Summer Camp (Armoured Wing). Again, this job was carried out with the usual A Squadron efficiency.

During this period, we managed to get fifty other ranks of this squadron away on furlough, this being the first time we were able to enjoy a summer leave.

On the first of August, Major J G Price took over command of the Squadron from Major Cuthbertson. Although the Squadron was mainly employed on regimental duties, tank training was continued.

From the 15th to the 18th of September, the squadron took part in the Regimental Exercise featuring the withdrawal. The smoothness with which the Squadron carried out its part of the exercise, showed how high the standard of training was.

Back again at Regimental Sports Day for the year 1952, we marched on the field with determination in our eyes that this year we would be champions. But, alas, we tied B Squadron for first place.

What a sports day! ----- fighting tooth and nail all the way! However, we took the Individual Championship of the Regiment for the second year in a row; the champions being Corporal Meeker, 1951, and Trooper Perkins, 1952. We celebrated this great day with a Smoker and claimed that it was the best sports day ever held in the Regiment. We shall finish this Squadron narrative with our Battle Cry: "We'll be back next year".

## B SQUADRON ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

This short story of Baker Squadron from 1st June, way back in 1951, to the present date, is handicapped, as we keep telling people, by two factors:

- (a) those writing it were functioning in other places last June, and
- (b) it is being written during the Squadron's field training period "in the field", where apart from a few typewriters, adding machines and so on, the only facilities available are a stout heart, several old files, a notebook, a pencil, and SSM Douglass' unfailing memory.

In spite of all the difficulties we think we can make this report an interesting one, for certainly many interesting developments have taken place.

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First off, for a short squint at the training side of the house, we advise that B Squadron, in addition to being a fighting Squadron, also acts as the Regimental Training School for the Regiment. There are, superimposed over the fighting establishment, a training organization consisting of Driver (wheeled), Driver Mechanic (tracked), Wireless, Gunnery and Basic Training Schools. Personnel employed in the Schools have a squadron or troop function as well.

Since June 1951 more than four hundred persons have taken training in one or more of the Training Schools. Their operation has been entirely successful.

In the coming fall, regimental training will continue under the same auspices, except that training in the Driver Mechanic (tracked) and Gunnery Schools will concentrate on the Centurion tanks and the 20 pounder gun, so that all drivers and gunners will be converted to the new regimental tanks.

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Acting as Demonstration Squadron for the Regiment, troops of the Squadron have demonstrated tank gunnery on many occasions during the year. Some of them include:

May 52 for Canadian Army Staff College  
June 52 for "Newspapers Editors of America - USA"  
July 52 for all Summer Camp Firepower Demonstrations  
August 52 for the Imperial Defence College of Great Britain

and so on.

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Both in 1951 and 1952 the Squadron's functions were given over entirely during July and part of August to Summer Camp duties. Instructional and administrative personnel were on loan to the Summer Camp Headquarters, and the Training Schools accepted candidates on special one-week courses for Reserve Force.

We are most certainly pleased that B Squadron was able to provide such an important contribution to the Summer Camps of 1951 and 1952.

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"Gone but not forgotten" are the enjoyable squadron entertainments held during the period under report. Beach parties are always a success, and the smokers are popular events.

The highlight of the season, though, was the Squadron Dance held 6th June at the Petawawa Camp Community Centre. Every frill - including some from Pembroke and Deep River - was provided by way of music for dancing, decorations, food and refreshment, and all ranks had a most enjoyable evening.

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For the first time in the modern annals of the Squadron, B Squadron took to the field on 7th August 1952.

On the same day we entertained a delegation from the Imperial Defence College of Great Britain, at dinner in the Officers' Mess, and for a demonstration tank shoot and a tour of the training area. Believe us, it was a very successful event!

The "shaking down" period over, training commenced in earnest on 11th August, and has gradually built up from individual and crew training, through troop training, to the squadron training, which commenced Monday 7th September. After a week of operation as a squadron, there was the culmination in the Regimental Exercise held 15th to 17th September.

The Squadron harboured during the field training period under operational conditions, that is, by troops and echelon, at the crossroads of Brindle and the historic Mattawa, on the Banks of the Ottawa River.

Highlight on the recreational side of affairs was the August 24th "At Home" when the Royal Canadian Regiment Band played a concert for all ranks and their dependents and friends, and a turkey dinner was served Buffet Style, after games, swimming and so on..

There is no hesitation in saying that everyone has benefitted from the sojourn in the field, both from the point of view of training, and also the business of living and working together as a team.

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We are as proud of Baker Squadron today, as were all those of the Readers who have served before in the Squadron and the Regiment since its original inception.

Be assured always that the "modern trend" has not obliterated that traditional comradeship and teamwork, so important in the way of life of every soldier.

To all of you everywhere, we sent Best Wishes from BAKER SQUADRON, ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS, 1952.

"C" SQUADRON ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS  
"27 Cdn Inf Bde"

(The following are excerpts from newsletters written by Major G H Pratt, CD, Officer Commanding, "C" Squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons, Germany).

The first month of 1952 has been a very interesting one. Although no disembarkation leave was granted by Brigade, little was accomplished during the initial two weeks in Germany. It will be remembered as a settling-in-period of little consequence to the life of the Squadron. A new country, new people, new food and quarters and a new command, thoroughly mixed with a ton of training and an administrative bumph from Brigade Headquarters, was difficult to digest. But our Commander and his staff showed "understanding Hearts" and so permitted our many "bungling attempts to do something" go unmolested.

Conducted tours to places of interest in Northern Germany have been organized, and, although the immediate response has not been high, it is reasonable to assume that the maximum advantage will be taken of the more attractive tours. With the very rigid control on all activities, in and around the Garrison, the troops are somewhat hesitant about "paying" for a holiday that is controlled in the same spirit.

Restrictions in the amount of pay which may be drawn by all ranks below Warrant Officer is an asset and, although disliked at the moment, will produce the desired dividend when troops are aware of the wiseness of saving pay to permit a complete holiday on their leave periods. Troopers and Corporals may draw a maximum of £15-0-0 per month; Sgts and S/Sgts a maximum of £30-0-0 per month.

The leave periods are scheduled to start by the end of March and provide fourteen days leave plus two days travel time, every four months. The Squadron leave roster is now prepared and a welfare section at Brigade Headquarters advises on all requests for leave accommodation in Europe. Passports are required to permit entry into any country except Holland.

The Garrison provides a great many facilities to accommodate the idle hours. The Garrison Theatre is very satisfactory; it provides ample accommodation and a good selection of movies, punctuated with stage shows, touring operas, and the legitimate theatre. There are several sports fields, cinder tracks, football fields, cricket fields, and field hockey grounds. Two very large and excellently equipped outdoor swimming pools are available during the good weather.

Canteen facilities are not sufficient at this date (February), but steps have been taken to increase these facilities. One NAAFI provides for both "C" Squadron and the 79th Field Regiment RCA. Rations are adequate. There is no extra messing provided as in Canada, but the profit derived from the NAAFI will provide any extras required. NAAFI profits for December amounted to just under ninety dollars. It is anticipated that they will average about \$150.00 a month.

Much water has passed under the bridge during the months of March, April, May, June and July. The full story of the benefits, derived from the past activities are almost beyond comprehension. So many of the lessons learned were coincidental to the object of the training exercises -- others, almost intangible until associated with the concrete evidence of their existence.

Early in April Brigade Headquarters informed the Squadron that it would supply the personnel for a Recce Troop. The equipment was to consist of one 15 cwt FFW, a Fox Armoured Car, and four Lynx Scout Cars. A unit course was held to train the Recce Troop under the guidance of, Lieut. Ross for driving and maintenance, Sgt. Cheney for the wireless portion and 2/Lt MacLeod for general organization and

control. The troop first functioned in their role on a Wireless Exercise with Brigade Headquarters during the middle of July. Lieut MLA Weisman commanded them during this exercise and the Brigade seemed pleased with the efforts of all.

Incidentally, during the month of May our strength was increased by the attachment of four COTC Officers, namely, 2/Lts Walsh, Sutherland, MacLeod and O/C Conrad. They have been assigned to definite troops and no "quarter" has been given in the efforts demanded. These gentlemen have been an asset to the Squadron. They are keen, intelligent, and capable. Each one has proved worthy of the responsibility placed with him.

A continuation of troop training during March was beneficial to all. Stress was placed on siting ranks in the anti-tank role, and it was discovered most impractical to "dig in" a Centurion tank with the two small shovels provided. A normal "tank dozer" is obviously necessary if the Squadron is expected to function in that role. Late in March we were afforded the opportunity to "shoot in" the 20 Pounders. A great deal of interest was aroused by this operation. Firstly, every man in the Squadron was bubbling with excitement at the prospect of seeing, at long last, just what this gun would do. They were not disappointed. Secondly, due to the experience of other Armoured Units in BAOR, the performance of all guns was noted by technical personnel sent over from the AFV Gunnery School at Lulworth for that particular task.

The Brigade moved to Munsterlager Camp early in April, and this afforded our first opportunity to train with the other arms. The Squadron was allotted to each of the battalions for one week. During the first week a demonstration Troop-Platoon and Squadron-Company attack displayed immediately the paramount importance for good communications, good planning and a sound appreciation of the capabilities of each Arm when working together

The program during the three week period followed a set pattern. Each infantry platoon was allotted one full day to work with a troop of tanks. The platoon met the tanks at our harbour, were given a brief description of the tank by the troop leader, and then mounted it and were driven to the training area. In the Training area the Platoon Commander and the Troop Leader set their own exercises, planned their own recco and moves. At the conclusion the Squadron Battle Captain who had witnessed and advised during the day, conducted a general critique on the main points. Each Infantry Company spent one day with two troops under command, to practice the inf-tank attack at that level.

The remainder of the time in Munsterlager was devoted to Squadron movement exercises, particularly at night.

The Squadron returned to Hohne early in May while the remainder of the Brigade moved north for two exercises. A small Squadron HQ and two Troop Leaders worked with the Bde on both of these exercises, in an attempt to provide theoretical armoured support to the Brigade. The exercises were a marked success for all but Armour, where it is felt that it was used much more loosely and freely than in fact it could have been had the tanks actually been on the ground. However, the experience gained by Squadron Headquarters and the Troop Leaders will pay dividends on all future exercises and operations.

Although our main role with the Brigade is that of providing the Anti-Tank defence, it now appears that we must be prepared to work with the infantry in teams ranging from one tank with one platoon, to the entire Squadron with one or two companies.

The latter part of May and early June was devoted to preparation for participation in a Queen's Birthday Parade in Hannover on 6 Jun. Tanks were all painted, complete with the usual red and white trim. The parade was a spectacle never to be forgotten by anyone who witnessed it. The entire Brigade was formed up in a tight formation;

with the Squadron on the right, 1 Cdn Rifle Bn in the Centre foreground, 1 Cdn Highland Bn and 1 Cdn Inf Bn behind the Rifles, flanked on the right by the 58 Fd Sqn RCE, and on the left by 27 Cdn Ord Coy, 194 Inf Wksp RCEME, 55 Tpt Coy RCASC, and 79 Fd Amb RCAMC, with 79 Fd Regt RCA in rear and in line. The ceremony included an inspection by the Canadian Ambassador, a Feu di Joie fired by 1 Cdn Rifle Bn and a Battery of 79 Fd Regt RCA, and a "march past" by the complete brigade. Tanks drove by in line ahead, traversed and dipped their guns with outstanding precision, and really stole the show.

1 Cdn High Bn took advantage of a slack period in their programme, to send each of their Rifle Coys up to our training area in Hohne for a 48 hours period, during the latter part of July. Four Troop, under their very capable Troop Leader, Lieut. 'John' Harte, moved into a training harbour for the ten day period and put each company through its paces. Particular stress was placed on the relative movements and actions of each element in the assembly area and forming-up place. It is hoped that the other infantry Battalions will provide a similiar period later in the year.

Our next training commitment involves a move to Sennlager Training area and a possibility of some firing with our MGs and smoke weapons. We will be called to support each infantry battalion in turn in a defensive exercise and an attack exercise, each including the live fire of their support weapons and also the full support of 79 Fd Regt RCA.

The Brigade leave policy has worked wonders for the morale of all troops. The first leave cycle has now been completed and the second started. Although some are investigating the pleasure of life on continental Europe, by far the majority prefer to cross the Channel and move freely and relaxed in a country where their native tongue is spoken. They report an excellent reception in England.

A Squadron Sports Day was held 23 June to select competitors for the Brigade Sports Day in Hannover on 1 July. The Squadron team placed fourth at the Brigade meet, and this is considered as no small achievement when one compares numerically the potential from this Squadron and the larger units in the Brigade.

In closing I can safely report that the morale of all troops was never higher than it is now.

#### THE GREATER NEED

A Company of Infantry advancing through the desert was running short of food and water. After a further forage of ten or eleven days, the Company was beginning to show signs of thirst.

On the Seventeenth day they arrived at a water-hole "with their tongues hanging out", whereupon the CSM threw his hands in the air and cried: "Water, water, thank heaven! Now we can get our equipment blanccoed."

## D SQUADRON ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

As a good number of the readers of the SPRINGBOK will probably not be familiar with D Squadron, this article will cover a brief history of the Squadron, as well as a regime of activities throughout the past year.

D Squadron was originally formed on 7 June 1951, to handle training and administration of personnel recruited under operation PANDA. The Squadron was formed from five "Y" troops of eastern Reserve Force armoured units. Units which each contributed a Y troop to the Sqn were the Regiment de Hull, the Three Rivers Regiment, the 8th New Brunswick Hussars, the Halifax Rifles, and the Prince Edward Island Regiment. At this time, the Sqn functioned as a holding establishment of the RCD, with each troop retaining the badges and shoulder titles of their parent unit. As such, basic and corps training were completed.

On 1 January 1952 the Sqn was re-designated as 1 Armoured Squadron, RCAC, and became an independent sub-unit. However, at the end of February, it became D Squadron RCD, this time as an integral part of the regiment.

The Squadron was commanded by Major A L Macdonald from the time of its formation until the end of August, 1951, when he handed over the command to Capt J A Beament. On the first of December Capt D H Morgan took over command, and turned the Sqn over to Major J A Milbrath, the present OC, on 15 January 1952.

On 10 October 1951 the Sqn produced a very good turnout when, together with the other Squadrons of the Regiment, a guard was provided to line the streets of OTTAWA during the visit of Her Majesty, The Queen. Later in the day, troops of D Squadron, under command of Capt J A Beament, provided a similar guard in the city of HULL.

Throughout the winter of 1951-52, great strides were made in the training of tradesmen. This was made possible by reason of the large number of courses conducted within the unit. The qualification of a large number of tradesmen paved the way for a very successful training program in the summer of 1952.

On 8 August 1952, the Squadron moved to the field for a six week period of field training. A campsite was selected at DUKE CROSSING, approximately seven miles northwest of the Camp, and the necessary canvas was erected, including Officers' Mess, Sergeants' Mess, and Mens' Canteen. Extensive training was carried out at crew, troop, and Squadron level, with all personnel being given an opportunity to fire the .30, .50 machine guns, and 76mm tank guns on the ranges.

The Squadron began field training with 24 M4A2s, most of which had just survived the rigors of summer camp training. Throughout the period, an average of 20 tanks were available as "runners". Under the capable supervision of Sgt Haas and Sgt Davis, a total of nine engine assemblies were changed in the field, using unit facilities, with RCEME personnel checking and testing the finished job. Crew maintenance improved steadily.

Highlight of Squadron field training was a Squadron exercise held on 11 September, which consisted of an advance to contact and assault on BENKE WOOD. The exercise was observed by Brig J B M Rockingham, CBE, DSO, Bar, Director of Military Training; Col D Douglas, OBE, CD, Commander Camp Petawawa; and the Commanding Officer, Lt-Col J F Merner, CD. When the exercise was over, the Squadron harboured in BENKE WOOD for the noon meal, and at that time the Sqn Officers, as well as a good number of NCOs and men, had the opportunity of meeting Brig. Rockingham.

The high state of morale of the troops while they were in the field was reflected by the low number of absentees, and the fact that very few men went sick. Various types of sports were engaged in, with keen interest being shown in inter-troop ball games and the

trajectory of the horseshoes that were being pitched on the side-lines. The Squadron smoker, held in the open on the night of 11 September, brought to light a lot of previously unknown local talent.

The stay in the field was climaxed by Squadron participation in exercise FINALIZE, the regimental scheme, held 15-16-17 September.

At present, the Squadron is engaged in Regimental duties and annual range classifications. A large number of personnel are slated for conversion courses, and a good number of outdoor schemes are planned for the forthcoming winter.

### WHAT TO DO IN AN AIR RAID

#### Now it Can be Told!

(Military instruction No. 89653 - Chapter 26, Section 14A, Paragraph 8).

1. As soon as the bombs start dropping run like hell. It doesn't matter where, as long as you run. If you are inside a building run outside. If you are outside run inside.
2. Take advantage of opportunities afforded you when the air raid sirens sound the attack warning; for example
  - (a) If in a bakery grab some pies, buns, cakes, etc.
  - (b) If in a tavern grab a bottle.
  - (c) If in a movie grab a blonde.
3. If you find an unexploded bomb always pick it up and shake it -- the firing pin may just be stuck.
4. If that doesn't work, place it in the furnace. The Fire Department will come later and take care of things.
5. If an incendiary bomb is found burning in a building throw some gasoline on it. You can't put it out anyhow so you might as well have some fun.
6. If no gasoline is available throw a bucket of water on it and then lay down -- you are dead. The properties of the bomb free the hydrogen from the water with rapid combustion, in fact, it will explode with one helluva bang.
7. Always get excited and holler -- it will add to the fun and scare hell out of the kids.
8. Eat heavily of onions, garlic, limburger, etc., before going into an air raid shelter. This will make you unpopular with the crowd in your vicinity -- eliminating any discomfiture which would result if people crowded close.
9. If you should be the victim of a direct hit don't go to pieces. Lie down and they won't even see you.
10. Knock the Air Raid Warden down if he starts to tell you what to do. They always save the best seats for themselves and their friends, anyway.

RCAC EXHIBITS AT THE C.N.E. AND THE NATIONAL AIR SHOW

(By Lt D H Wheeler, RCD)

The Armoured and coincidentally the Royal Canadian Dragoons exhibits at the Canadian National Exhibition and National Air Show this year consisted of a Centurion tank and crew. Lts. Wheeler and Rasmussen, Cpl. Dorman and Czuroske made up the crew.

While the show called for a four hour tour of duty daily; it was necessary due to the large crowds that thronged to see the display, to work on a twelve hour shift. This resulted in the sad situation of having to give our own personal entertainment secondary consideration. However it would seem that it did not deter Cpl. Czuroske too much for he went down single and came back married. Lt. Rasmussen just came back tired.....

It was estimated that over a quarter of a million people viewed the exhibit. And judging by their comments the taxpayer feels his money is well spent as far as the tank and the Dragoons are concerned. It is felt that the display would have been of considerable more interest had permission been granted to move the tank around a bit; and if circumstances had of allowed, the firing of the master weapon and the MGs. It was a trifle difficult for the crew to stand by and watch the "Space Cadets" (RCAF) put on a demonstration of fire power and manoeuvrability outside the break-water when they realized that they would have been able to put on equally as good a show if circumstances had of permitted it. However, interest was maintained during slack periods by starting up the engine and rotating the turret.

The job of public relations was well handled and the crew appeared on TV, newsreels, radio, and in the press. At one point they were at the stage of looking for an agent, with aspirations towards Hollywood and wild dreams of possibly co-starring with Marilyn Monroe.

The crew found too, that the British idea of a chromium plated "Brew Can" is not to be sneezed at. For during the Ex. they were supplied with coffee by a local firm on the condition that their coffee only was used. Lt. Wheeler refused to endorse the product but the crew had coffee whenever they wanted it.

To summarize, compliments on the work of the crew were many. Although the job was a trifle tedious it was also interesting. Food and lodging were excellent, and there was lots of entertainment for off duty hours. The job of cooperation between the services was adequately handled and left nothing to be desired. On the whole it was a darn good show.

## THE RUN AROUND

(By HB Harrison)

We had been discharged from the Army in 1949 with a low category, which our friends tell us is not surprising when you consider our character. However, when we heard that the Korean Veteran with a year in that country was going to get large sums of money and plenty of leave on discharge; and it also looked as if the Troops in Germany would suffer the same fate, it made us stop and think. Uncle Joe was enjoying a volume of success with the Armistice filibuster. And we were advised by some friends at Central Command to apply for the Supplementary Reserve, which would mean, that if Uncle did get too boisterous, we could return to the Army as rank as when we left it.

Accordingly, with this in mind, we submitted our applications to Central Command. Several days later, we received a signal that due to being P5 we could not be accepted. Yet, since we had been out of the Service for four years and were apparently still alive, we should make an attempt to get our category raised. This would mean, if successful, that the Supp Res would welcome us with open arms.

So it was to Toronto Military Hospital we next repaired. On arriving it was soon evident that we were "for the course".

"Eyes?"

"We can see."

"Ears?"

"We never had any difficulty in that department."

"Touch your toes." (Easy enough after wearing army boots for years.)

"Squat." (Who doesn't practise this at least once a day and more frequently during epidemics.)

After this show we were off to the X-ray department where we had various portions of ourself photographed. And finally, as we had been sick in 1932, to a specialist who after knocking us about a bit, summed his inspection up with the remark,

"Oh well! you don't have to join, but since you want to there is no reason why you shouldn't. Anyway, if the ballon ever did go up you would have to be reboarded."

We returned to our civilian toil. Several weeks passed and nothing happened. Finally we phoned a pal of ours at C. C. 1 Command.

"Oh yes", our pal told us, "Your Pulhems are satisfactory but you must fill out some forms".  
(This was already beginning to sound like the army we knew.)

"Then you will have to go to No. 6 Personnel Depot", our pal continued, "It will only take a minute."

The forms duly arrived, and having filled in all the dark details of our past, we phoned and made an appointment to go to No. 6 the following morning.

We started out bravely for No. 6, and we were not long on the road before we were sorry we hadn't packed a lunch. We had been advised that our destination was "just behind Sunnybrook" but actually it is much nearer to Barrie. However we made the grade, parked the car, and went into the Adm Building where we were met by the Chief Clerk, who we discovered we had known previously.

Looking up from his desk, the Chief Clerk reached for a number of forms and wrote diligently for some time. Finally, he handed us a volume of manuscripts. (the results of his labor)

"Go over to No. 7", he said, "It will only take a minute."

No. 7 turned out to be the M.I.R. We had in the past, always associated the Medicos with No. 9, and we felt that this could have been continued by housing the M.I.R. in the No. 9 building. It wasn't nearly so far, however, tradition had apparently gone down the drain.

Upon arriving at No. 7 we were met by a very tired appearing private, who, after giving us a cardboard box said, "Take a Bath."

"what", we cried, "In this?"

"No, in the shower room of course", said the unsmiling private.

"Look", we said defiantly, "We have already had a medical board at T.M.H. and have come up here of our own free will to be sworn in the Supp Res."

"Can't help that", came the reply, "Everyone who comes in here must have a medical."

We disrobed, and in looking around for the showers we spotted a large room surrounded by small nozzles. Closer inspection disclosed this room to be one very similar to the scalding room at Swifts Canadian Ltd. Live steam hissed out of the walls at the slightest interference with the tap marked 'H', while icy blasts of cold water nearly flattened one when the other tap was tried. Never were the words 'hot' and 'cold' more accurately designated.

Since we had taken a civilian bath the night before we did not linger here long, and in a very few moments we were clean and dry and looking for our clothes. Our clothes were nowhere in sight. A blue bathrobe remained in their place. Needless of this we rushed into the next room and as quickly rushed out again. Three of the female help were holding an 'O' group in that particular room. The meeting, needless to say, was hurriedly adjourned when we entered. Donning the bathrobe which nearly came to our knees we re-entered, trying our best to look like someone else.

"Look here", we said quietly enough, "Somebody is making a lot of nonsense about all this. We keep trying to tell you that we have had our medical at T.M.H. and ...."

We were interrupted by a lad dressed in a white coat and seated at a small table.

"We are not concerned with your past", he said, "Go in there."

'In there' was another lad who said, "Weight? Height? Marks?"

"One forty. Five nine. Scar on chin." we replied, and realized we were for the course again.

Finally, we emerged once more into the assembly area where, we were handed an armful of bottles. Hoping the large one wasn't for blood we moved behind a curtain where another white clad bloke ordered us to bare our right arms, and in so doing, he thrust a fire hose nozzle into our arm and drew off gallons of precious fluid. Reeling and bleeding we were led to a couch and told to wait there until call for. Two chaps were already sitting there. Of the one on our right we inquired, "Going in or coming out."

"Korean Brigade", he answered brightly.

We looked around panic stricken. What had we let ourselves in for? Should we phone the wife? She would surely be upset if she received a postcard from us with a picture of the townhall at Seoul on it. Should we make a dash for it while there was yet time? But that would have been difficult as we were clad only in a small sized bathrobe and besides we didn't have the keys to the car anyway.

However, our thoughts were soon dispersed when we heard someone calling our name. A man entered and waved us into another room, with the remark, "What's the matter with you guys, can't you hear?"

"What do you think", we answered, pointing to our ears. After all, no one was going to order us around, at least not until we had been sworn in. (We grasped at this thought as a drowning man grasps for a straw, for we had not yet taken the oath, although we had undoubtedly uttered many.)

When we entered the room we saw a doctor at a desk writing furiously.

"Touch your toes, Rise on your toes, Squat, Lower the bottom, etc.," he ordered, without looking up and still writing furiously.

"Any Illnesses?", he said.

"Pleuresy 1931", we told him.

He stopped writing, sat back in his chair and laying down his pencil said in a very cultured voice, "At last, now I'll be able to catch that car. What a day. Incidentally I shall have to refer you to T.M.H. for a consultants report."

Noticing our rather sad expression, he added kindly, "It's alright, it will only take a minute."

And handing us our documents, he said, "Next room please."

An intelligent looking chap with about nine rows of ribbons on his chest sat at a desk here, and we made one more attempt.

"Look", we said, we are getting nowhere fast. We had a reboard at T.M.H. a few weeks back and we were fortunate enough to have our category elevated sufficiently to join the Supplementary Reserve. Now we have been through the mill again and referred to T.M.H. for a consultants report". Can't you straighten all this nonsense out."

"Get dressed", he said looking us over critically, "And come back in here."

Dressed once more and feeling much more comfortable, we returned. Thrusting a volume of paper at us, our beribboned friend ordered, "To T.M.H. and don't forget to bring these papers back!"

"But....", we said.

"That's enough", he interrupted, "Don't you think we know what we are doing?"

With the papers in our hands we dashed madly across the square. Into the Chief Clerk's office we rushed. Heedless of any work we might interrupt we had made up our minds to see him again.

"By Thunder and Wodan, Mother Machree", we roared, "Who is giving us this old malarkey? What is this anyway? Here we have been through the course twice, bled twice, scalded, frozen, and made to gambol around like a spring lamb; and we are referred to T.M.H. again. May I use your phone."

The Chief Clerk sighed, and reached for the phone himself, he call Central Command and asked for Records.

"Hullo", he said, "That Records? Look there is a bloke down here by the name of Harrison, with an arm full of papers and a heartful of hate. Claims he has been running around naked all afternoon. No, no, no complaints from the female help. Have you a medical on him from T.M.H.? What! You think we might have it here? Yes, yes, yes, thanks."

He downed the receiver, looked at us and took our papers.

"Small SNAFU, Jim", he said, "Sorry and all that. We will fix your papers and you can come back later. I'll give you a call. It will only take a minute. Anyway, I believe you actually enjoyed the whole show up here today."

Oddly enough, when viewed from the safety of our own home, we believe we actually did.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr J. B. Harrison joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons in 1927 and retired on pension in 1949. During the last war he served overseas with the Regiment in Great Britain, Sicily, Italy, and North-West Europe. From 1941 to his retirement he was RQSM of the Dragoons. While with the Regiment Mr. Harrison was very very active from a literary aspect, having served in an editorial capacity on the Springbok Magazine as well as on Camp newspapers.

On 3 April, a cocktail party and buffet supper was held in the Officers' Mess in honour of the Regiment's new Honourary Colonel, Major-General C C Mann, CBE, DSO, CD.

The RCD Officers' Mess hold their annual June Ball on 14 June. Major-General C C Mann was the guest of honour.

On 12 Aug 52, the Officers' Mess held a luncheon for those participating in the unveiling of the Cairn ceremonies, which commemorated the first military aircraft flight in Canada. One of the original pilots, the Hon. J A D McCurdy, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, was present. Also present were: Defence Minister Hon. Brooke Claxton, General A F L McNaughton, Rear Admiral DeWolfe, Air Chief Marshal Curtis, Major-General Clarke and Major-General Graham, as well as various members of the Air Research Council past and present.

On 30 August, a cocktail party and buffet dinner was held in the Officers' Mess, in honour of the Regiment's Honourary Colonel, Major-General Mann, who, earlier in the day, had attended a parade held in his honour on the Leliefontein Parade Square.

The Annual Re-union of the officers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons was held on 13 Sep. Among the many guests present were: Major-General C C Mann, CBE, DSO, CD, Honourary Colonel of the Regiment; Colonel Chubb, DSO, CD; Lt-Col Massey (The Royals) and Lt-Col W G A Lambe, ED.

Throughout the year, monthly Mess Dinners were held, attended by the regimental officers. Informal dances were held, as well as the occasional beach party.

During the period of 1 May 52 to date, Major G W Pearce was P.M.C. until relieved by Major A L MacDonald in September. Capt Stelfox was Vice-President throughout this period. The Mess Secretaries were Lieut. Elliott and Lieut. Hales.

SERGEANTS MESS ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

The late Fall of 51 was taken up chiefly with getting "C" Squadron ready to go to Germany. The members of the mess who went with "C" Sqn are as follows: WO 2 Haskett, SQMS Cummings, S/Sgts Miles & Simpson, Sergeants Buttle, Comeau, Cowden, Crawford, Price, Raeside, Rose, Sanderson, Taylor, Wake and Winters.

The annual Christmas dinner was held on the 21st of December and all the members and their wives sat down to a very sumptuous repast made up of the usual fare for Christmas. Guests of the Mess included Col and Mrs Merner.

On New Years day the Mess was "At Home" to all the officers of the Regiment and later to all the messes of the other units in Camp which included the 3rd Bn, The Royal Canadian Regiment, The 59th Independent Field Sqn, RCE, The MCASC, The Ordnance Corps and last but not least Petawawa Camp Headquarters.

Entertainment during the winter months was curtailed due to the unexpected death of our Commander-in-Chief the late King George VI. However we very quietly ushered the 1st Bn The Royal Canadian Regiment out to Korea with a small smoker. Due to circumstances we couldn't put on the show that has become a tradition with the Mess. However, we know that our comrades of The RCR understood and our best wishes went with them in the form of a trophy. We have since received word that the trophy is bearing up well under fire in Korea.

Once the mourning period was over we went back on to our usual social activities, leading off with a dance in June. This event went over big after the period of austering and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

On the 7th of June the Mess journeyed in a body to Ottawa where they were guests for the evening of the 30th Field Regiment, RCA. This visit did much to cement the long feeling of friendship that has existed between our mess and the 30th Field.

On the 5th of July the Members of the Sergeants Mess 30th Field arrived in Petawawa for a return visit. This evening was highlighted by a Polo match between the two messes. Who won the Game? Enough Said!

In August a weiner roast was held at Gust Point. SSM Getty as M.C. did a remarkable job, complete with Dance Floor, lights, etc.

On the 29th of August the annual Sgts Mess Re-union dinner was held. Our new Honorary Col., Major General C C Mann, CBE, DSO, CD was guest of Honour. All past and present members of the mess were officially welcomed by RSM Price, MBE which was followed by an address by the Commanding Officer, Lt-Col J F Merner, CD, who in turn was followed by the Honorary Colonel who gave a very amusing and interesting talk. Some of the out-of-town guests included Major J Manning, MBE, St. Johns, P.Q., ex-Sgt. Ed Butler, St. Johns, P.Q., Ex-RSM Jerry Churchward, London, Ont. and ex-Sgt Percy Rescarl, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

On the 3rd of September one of our brilliant bachelors, Sgt Ferguson by name, decided to join the Ranks of the Bandidicts. A very pretty wedding was solemnized in St. George's Chapel when Sgt Ferguson was united in Marriage to Miss Emily Aitken. The bride and groom passed under an arch of lances supported by members of the Sergeants Mess. A reception was held later in the Sergeants Mess. The bride and groom left later for Georgia, USA, where the groom will be on course for the next few months.

This only leaves Sgt. Haas as the lone remaining hold-out on the Bachelor line, but when last seen he was weakening fast. Wanna Bet?

On the 7th of Sept the members of the Mess were hosts to the youngsters of the Mess in their annual Picnic. Races were held including the Husband Calling Contest. We hope some of those husbands are

obedient, when their Commanding Officer calls. The day finished up with the usual amount of tummy-aches due to copious quantities of Pop, ice-cream and Hot Dogs.

During the past year we have welcomed in the Mess the following Sergeants: We hope that their stay with us will be both profitable and enjoyable to them.

Sgts Marleau	Boucher	Wake
Comeau	Pierce	Gass
Gelhart	Ripley	Drolet
Marion	Sonier	Hatton
Dennomme	Haas	Hood
Arnold	Hogan	

The present serving members of the Regiment are as follows:

WO 1	Price H W, MBE	Sgt	Fergusson H W
WO 2	Croft J E	Sgt	Gass L L
WO 2	Deeming R W, DCM	Sgt	Geldart V D
WO 2	Douglass E W, MM	Sgt	Graham H S
WO 2	Frappier R	Sgt	Haas D F
WO 2	Ge'tty J	Sgt	Hatton C R
WO 2	Strachan A	Sgt	Hood K
WO 2	Wilkie R W A	Sgt	Krauskoff J A (RCASC)
SQMS	Gouin A G E	Sgt	Marion J W J
SQMS	Morris M G	Sgt	Marleau J C
SQMS	Short H A	Sgt	McArthur R L
SQMS	Vincent G F	Sgt	Milberry L A
Sgt	Arnold J P	Sgt	Mullin J F
Sgt	Barrett R M	Sgt	Nichols A W
Sgt	Bell D L (RCAMC)	Sgt	Ricard E-J (RCAPC)
Sgt	Boucher J L	Sgt	Pierce NA
Sgt	Brown E A	Sgt	Prettie R G, CD
Sgt	Camley J R	Sgt	Proulx, C E
Sgt	Campbell J L	Sgt	Ripley R S
Sgt	Carpenter C R	Sgt	Robilliard N S (RCAPC)
Sgt	Carr A J (RCENE)	Sgt	Snider P L
Sgt	Christiani D L	Sgt	Sonier H J
Sgt	Cook J H, CD (RCEME)	Sgt	Van Allen D E
Sgt	Davis J J	Sgt	Watt A R
Sgt	Denomme W J	Sgt	Williams R E
Sgt	Drolet J J	Sgt	Woppard G W

W1 Sigs Tp

Sgt Williams L L

158 LAD - RCEME

WO 2	Sears S G
Sgt	Cyr C
Sgt	Nicol W M
Sgt	Swanky A J

## CORPORALS LOUNGE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

There have been many changes and incidents in the Cpls Lounge, which standout as highlights and mark the period elapsing since the Springbok last went to press. Not only has the mess itself undergone considerable changes but many members have come and gone since that last issue of Springbok. It is our wish in the following paragraphs to bring our readers up to date with regard to these changes within the Lounge.

Firstly a word or two about the building itself. In the past eighteen months the lounge has had its' face lifted'. It has been completely remodeled. All the old furniture has been replaced by the best of up-to-date modern furniture. The old broken down chairs have been replaced by smartly covered chesterfields and easy chairs. In place of the rickity old tables now stand highly polished chromium trimmed tables as well as maple endtables. A new floor has been exchanged for the old one, and no longer is there danger of one suddenly disappearing from sight while walking up to the bar for a drink. A new lighting system has been installed. It is one that is no too bright yet not too dark but the type that provides that discreet form of lighting which so much adds to the atmosphere when one is partying. Oh yes! the washrooms too, have been redecorated. The ladies now have a modern powder room in which to make themselves beautiful for all to behold. All in all the Corporals Lounge has improved materially 100% in the last eighteen months.

Space will not permit us to name all the members who have left the lounge due to promotion. However, the most outstanding to leave were Sergeant's Christie and Chanoy, who left to open the new Sergeants mess in Germany. Other members to follow them were Sergeant's Rose, Raeside, Comeau, Wako, Crawford, Price and Winters.

Other members of the Mess that left for Germany with "C" Squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons were as follows: 'Kopke Kid' Dzioba, 'Wild Jim' Foster, 'The Butt' Miller, (who has since returned), 'Fix It' Parsons, Corporal Leahy with the pipe, 'Spagotti' Stupicello, 'Bull Dog' Barbour, 'Baldy' Cunningham, 'Stinky' Oram, 'Lover Boy' Weatherby, 'Chief' Jobson, 'Shanty' Scott, 'Slinky' Bettle, 'Horso' Bentum, 'Slugger' McFarlaine, 'Handsome Harry' Newman, and last but not least 'Clutchy' Affleck.

Within the last year several of our members have gone for the "higher brass" at O.C.S. Namely, Corporal's Groves, Barnnaby, Shields and Williams.

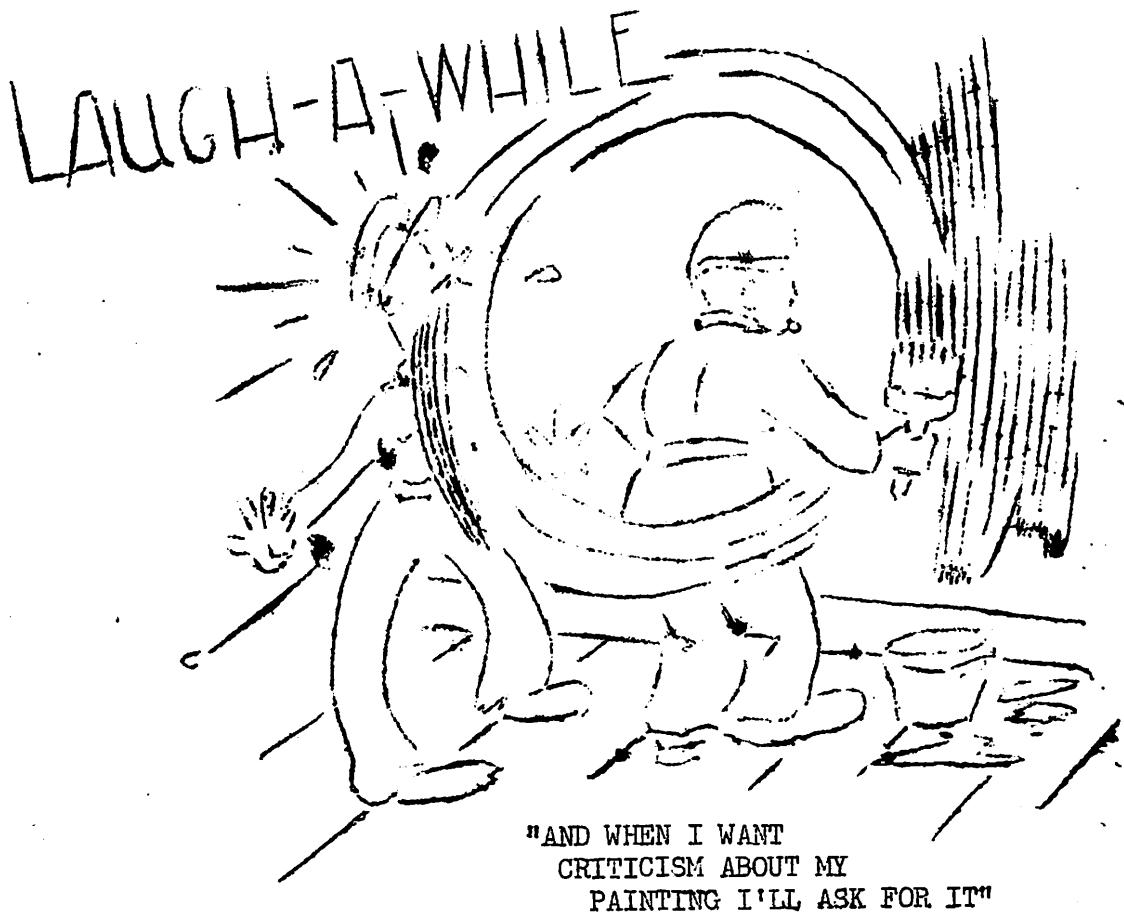
Now for a few of the highlights. Our most outstanding guest for the year was the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General C. C. Mann, CBE, DSO, CD, who along with our Commanding Officer, Lt-Col J. F. Merner, CD and party attended our JUNE Ball held on the 14th of that month. The members of the mess were most honoured and sincerely hope it will be a yearly affair.

Darts have been one of the major pastimes in the Corporals Lounge, and needless to say the Lounge has turned out some top ranking players. The big upset of the year came when our team lead by Cpl Fitzpatrick and Cpl Howell defeated the team from the Sergeants Mess to take the Regimental Dart championship.

Several bingo's were held, as well as a Millionaires Night, combined with the usual dance, helped to round out the social activities of the Lounge during the past eighteen months.

The Lounge suffered a great loss in the tragic and untimely death of L/Cpl McKay who was drowned at Centre Lake during the summer. The sympathy of all go out to those he left behind.

As mentioned earlier space will not permit us to name all the new members of the Lounge but we would like to take this opportunity to issue to them a most sincere welcome. We would also like to say Hello, and to offer best wishes to all ex-members of the Lounge. We trust that in four months when the next copy of the Springbok Newsletter is issued that we will have more news of interest for all.



"AND WHEN I WANT  
CRITICISM ABOUT MY  
PAINTING I'LL ASK FOR IT"

OR

" A FATIGUE MAN DREAMS."



"And I suppose you find this very  
different from driving a Tank around  
Corporal?"

THE MEN'S CANTEEN ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

This report is to cover approximately the last year and a half, from 1 June 51 to 1 September 52. During the first half of this period Captain J P Roy was President with Lieut. Mountford as Secretary. The latter half showed Captain M Watson as President and Lieut J M Wilder as Secretary. The Canteen Sergeants during this period were Sgts. Woppard and Camley respectively.

Although during this period the canteen followed a similar pattern to the one it had followed in the past, many significant changes were to take place. The usual problems concerning help and administration were still there. The staff fluctuated considerably both in quantity and quality. Many of those assigned to work in the canteen took their jobs seriously while others did not. The quality of business minds that operated behind the bars ranged from minds like Rockefeller to minds like Al Capone. However, on the whole the work was most satisfactory and the canteen prospered.

The old idea of the open type canteen meeting was discarded for the committee type. The advantages of this change were twofold. Firstly often the jobs the chaps were working on prevented them from attending the meetings, resulting in a poor representation. Secondly any problem or request by the men were brought to the Squadron representative. (Two Men from each Squadron made up the Committee) who brought them up at the meetings. Many who would normally be too shy to speak up at a meeting now came forth with many excellent ideas.

As we mentioned earlier many new changes took place in the past eighteen months. The canteen, in general, was to receive new curtains throughout. The old oil stoves were replaced by a modern central heating system. And new modern fluorescent lighting was installed in all rooms. These improvements needless to say were welcomed by all concerned.

The Coffe Shop featured several changes. For the gourmet a much more extensive menu was set up. The old tables were exchanged for new modern chromium trimmed ones. All this and a bit of painting too, resulted in the old Coffee Shop becoming one of the most popular rendezvous in the Camp, not only for RCDs but those from other units as well came to try out the fare produced under the guiding hand of L/Cpl Iris.

The "dry bar" now carries a much more extensive stock of merchandise. Their motto might easily be, "If you want it we can get it." Where do you think the Regiment got the new Centurian tanks, anyway? There is now installed in the dry bar a radio and record combination operated by the dry bar steward. From this central point the music is "piped" out to all the bars where loudspeakers have been set up. There is a liberal allowance set aside each month for the purpose of purchasing records. Already the canteen boasts quite an extensive record library. This change has been very popular with all and especially those who take advantage of the Saturday and Sunday Open House in the Ladies Lounge. There has been an increase in reading material in the dry bar. Newspapers are now available from all parts of Canada for those who are interested in keeping up with the news back home.

Aside from the new records and the loudspeakers, plus a few new pictures few other changes have taken place in the Ladies Lounge. However, judging by the size of the "open house's" it is a most popular spot.

The Wet Canteen is also sporting several new changes. Besides the introduction of "music while you drink" glasses have been purchased. No more tipping of the old bottle accompanied by the musical gurgle of beer trickling down ones gullet. Yes sir! the place is really going ritzy. This change not only called for the purchase of new glasses but also the installation of a new three compartment sink. Prices are still the same. Beer is fifteen cents a pint and all popular brands are carried. The Wet Canteen is still a very popular spot.

The games room has not been neglected either. The pool table has been recovered and cues have been repaired. The shuffle board although not very popular at present is still in operation. Ping Pong however, is most popular. Dart boards were purchased recently and set up. They have proved most popular. Incidentally one has been installed in the dry canteen as well. The library is still operating and the canteen belongs to several good book-of-the-Month clubs. There is now a very good selection of fiction and non-fictional books -- ranging from biographies, military historys and educational texts. We hope that they will be put to good use.

The Administration side also boasts a few changes. The Stockroom and offices have been moved to the old barber shop location. This is a much more satisfactory arrangement as it is not only a more suitable room but is also more central. The barber shop, incidently, now occupies part of the tailor shop, and for those who have been away for sometime, Bill Bull is still the barber and is going strong.

During the period covered by this report the canteen staff have also been busy with work only indirectly connected with the actual operation of the canteen. When the various squadrons were under canvas in the field the canteen kept them supplied with the necessary sundries. On both the regimental and camp sports meet the canteen operated a secondary canteen on the sports field for the benefit of the contestants and on-lookers. During the regimental smoker the canteen played a leading role in the organization which led to the eventual success of this undertaking. These are only a few of the many outside affairs that the RCD Men's Canteen participated in.

During the last eighteen months the canteen gave away much in the form of direct donations. Many bottles of beer past over the bar on such occasions as the regimental smoker, the two sports meets, and others. Free issue of cigarettes and chocolate bars were sent to those hospitalized both in Potawawa and in Kingston. Free prizes for various social events were given by the Canteen; also the free ice cream and pop for several kiddies parties came from the Canteen.

In addition to the normal monthly allotments and donations of money the canteen also voted to give \$100.00 per month to the Regimental Sports fund. This has now been in effect about six months.

The end of this report finds the canteen in top notch shape. Prices have never been lower and the range of merchandiso and facilities ever greater. On top of it all the Bank Book shows a very healthy balance.

## C.O.T.C. NEWS

Once again when summer rolled along Officer Cadets both from RMC and the various university contingents began to converge on Camp Petawawa. The Royal Canadian Dragoons played host to many this year who were attached to the regiment to complete the third year practical phase of their training.

The primary aim of this third phase is, as the name implies, to give the cadet practical regimental experience. Emphasis is placed upon the duties of a troop leader, but in addition elementary tactics are taught, as well as man management, and routine regimental duties.

Three Officer Cadets arrived from the Royal Military College at Kingston, Ontario. They were:

Officer Cadet	J J Dousley
Officer Cadet	W A Ferguson
Officer Cadet	R G Gross

The following came from various Universities throughout Ontario and Eastern Canada:

Officer Cadets	Western U
W J Blain	" "
C G Kitchen	" "
R C Parkinson	" "
J H Day	Queens
JAR Gutknecht	McGill
K McCulloch	Dalhousie
J P Gaffney	Layola
P T Galligan	Ottawa
D J McLellan	U of Toronto
J J Wardlaw	McMaster
G M Webb	St. Mary's

Of the above, Officer Cadets, Kitchen, Blain, and Parkinson left for Camp Ipperwash after approximately one month with the Regiment, as did Officer Cadets J A R Gutknecht and G M Webb, who were posted to Valcartier and Aldershot respectively. At these camps the cadets carried on with their practical training as well as acting in an instructional capacity.

The Officer Cadets who remained with the Regiment were posted to the various squadrons within the regiment. From all accounts the results were excellent. Each was worthy of the responsibility placed with him. They were an asset to the Squadrons as well as to the Regiment as a whole.

In addition to those officer cadets who were posted to the Regiment, four COTC Officers were attached to "C" Squadron "in Germany". From all reports their work, like their counterparts back in Canada, was unexcelled.

Officer Cadets Walsh, Sutherland, MacLeod and Conrad were the fortunate ones to receive this enviable posting overseas for the summer.

The Regiment would like to take this opportunity to wish them one and all the very best wishes for the future.

## A 'ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS' FLASHBACK

The Royal Canadian Dragoons had travelled a long and arduous road since that day in November 1943 when they first landed in Sicily. A road that was to take them through Italy and finally into North-West Europe. Here Major L. M. Sobert, who served with the "Dragoons", tells of one incident which marked the end of that trail. Major Sobert is now with the Royal Canadian Engineers.

### The Last Three Days of the War

For "B" Squadron, Royal Canadian Dragoons, the last few days of the war were spent between Kustin Canal and Wilhelmshaven. On May 3, the plan was that "B" Squadron would work between the Polish Division and the Fourth Canadian Division, and if possible find an open flank and get into the rear areas of the opposing German Army.

The Squadron had under Command, a Sherman-Dozer, which was on loan from the First Hussars and was to prove of inestimable value.

The advance began and it was pretty much reconnaissance straight from the book. A scout car troop would skirmish ahead covered by an armoured car troop. They would move comparatively rapidly until a blown bridge or culvert was reached. The infantry troop would then be called up. They would cross the blow and continue the reconnaissance on foot. At the same time the Bull-Dozer would come up and dig out a detour. Then the mounted reconnaissance would continue and the infantry troop, sweating it out along the road, would be overtaken and picked up by their own vehicles.

The only variation on this theme was on the rare occasion when a section of German Infantry was left, dug in, to cover one of the blows. This happened twice in the morning of May 3, and on both occasions they were driven away by the fire from the Armoured Cars and the normal drill was carried out without further incident.

The town ahead was called Westerstede and R.H.Q. informed us that the Poles were driving from the far side of town, and that at the present rate, we should meet in the centre of town. On approaching the outskirts all was serene. The civilians were standing in groups in front of their houses. (This to reconnaissance troops, is like a red sunset to a sailor; a very good sign. You never find spectators if there is a possibility of a scrap).

With this good omen, we entered the city without further ado, and headed for the town hall. Just then the unmistakable clatter of Bren-carriers was heard, and the advanced elements of the Polish Divisional reconnaissance Regiment poured into the town square.

Westerstede, it turned out, was the day's objective for the Poles and they were not prepared to proceed any farther north toward the ultimate objective, the port of Wilhelmshaven.

While the Squadron Officers were discussing plans and dispositions with the Poles, the Squadron Sergeant Major was told to take a party to the local hospital. Information had been received that this was a military hospital, and that there was still the German Staff in attendance. This was found to be true and he was met at the entrance by the German officer in charge who had his staff drawn up in full force. He was rather upset to have to surrender to a mere Feldwebel and three tired looking troopers, but condescended to show them around the building. On approaching one of the wards, Sergeant Major Douglass ordered him to open the door. He refused saying that he did not have to do this for a man of non-commissioned rank. Sergeant Major Douglass, being a man of few words, said ---

"Open that ----- door or I'll blow your bloody head off". To which a weak voice was heard to say from the other side of the door ---

"Come on in Canada". The ward contained sixteen wounded British Parachutists, captured at Arnhem.

It was by this time about 5 o'clock in the evening, with a least three hours of daylight, and no contact with the enemy. With this in mind, the Commanding Officer gave the Squadron an objective ten miles north.

That evening run was one of the most memorable of the writer's war experience. Leaving Westerstede was like entering a vacuum. Beyond the outskirts of the town not a soul stirred, but as the open country was reached, the odd farmer could be seen standing beside his home. This was again the reconnaissance soldier's good oracle, and in view of this, the speed of the advance was increased.

Little glamour is left to warfare in this advanced age, but once or twice during a campaign, reconnaissance troops experienced the sensation that makes months and even years of discomfort worth while. And this was it. It was a beautiful evening. The road was paved and fully wide enough to hold a turning Daimler. No blows or craters blocked the way; everything was just right.

The cars went racing through that weird, tense, wonderland that exists between two armies. The Daimlers were in the pink of condition and the Stags rumbled along in a manner that raised the morale of everyone. The ten miles to the days' objective were covered in half an hour, and five minutes later, the lead troop had occupied the small hamlet that was to be the end of our day's run.

The usual security drill was carried out. This consisted of patrol of a Scout and Car troop advancing about two miles ahead of the night's position. There, they would create a minor incidence, such as burning a barn or killing a cow -- something for the civilians to complain about, in case a German harbour hunting party questioned them as to the whereabouts of enemy troops. This was not the wanton act of destruction it might seem, for it was used many times by the writer's unit, and it never failed to throw German Patrols off the scent.

The patrol was carried out without incident and the Squadron commander went back to R.H.Q. for the following day's orders.

The orders were pretty much the same, "Push on toward Wilhelmshaven". At first light, the advance was resumed and in quick time, the ground skirmished by the last-night patrol was covered. Two more miles were gained when a tremendous crater was met. The old drill was carried out once again, and the infantry troop disappeared up the road in best infantry style, while the tank-dozer went to work on the crater. Shots were heard up ahead, and a runner reported that a party of Jerries setting mines had been surprised, five prisoners had been taken, but enemy small arms fire was holding up the advance. By the time the crater was filled and the advance resumed, the enemy had disappeared.

It was an extremely tedious day with crater after crater being either by-passed or filled. The civilians were extremely noticeable by their absence -- a bad sign.

On approaching a small hamlet small arms fire was met but after a vigorous display of fire power, including the 75 MM guns of the heavy troop, and entry into the first few houses was forced, and the infantry troop started house clearing. A reserve troop was moving in to add its support, when one of its cars set off a 500 pound sea-mine, which had been buried under the brick paving. This, of course, completely demolished the Staghound, and at the same time cratered the road, isolating the forward part of the Squadron in the town. To make things even more unpleasant, a German S.P. Gun appeared and it started to shell the town and to assist a sizable party of Jerries to retake it.

With a great show of courage, the first Hussar Tank-Dozer filled in the crater, in spite of a constant shower of mortar bombs and small arms fire. As soon as its job was completed, the forward section of the Squadron was reinforced and the town completely cleared.

As it was getting dark, we asked for permission to hold up for the night. This was granted, and shortly after last light, a foot patrol was sent out with the object of seeing what was going on in the next town, a village called a Bockhorn, about two miles distant.

Shortly after the patrol left, the Colonel arrived at Squadron Headquarters, and informed us that the war was ending the next day at 0800 hours.

The lessons learned from this action are few. Firstly, I think the value of earth moving equipment, that is the Bull-Dozer or Tank-Dozer, should be stressed. On questioning the Germans in Bockhorn the next day, they expressed great surprise that we advanced so rapidly. They said that they had expected their craters alone would hold us up for five days.

Secondly, the principal of always pushing forward by wheel, track or foot is a sound one. It provides parties working on obstacles with cover and at times helps you "Gain Yards", as it did when we surprised the German mine-laying party.

The affect that this action had on the campaign was none at all. Germany was defeated and negotiations were probably in progress as this last action was being fought. But if the Germans had held out to the last pocket of resistance, as we all thought they would, this action would have hastened, somewhat, the fall of Wilhelmshaven.

L. M. Sebert, Major

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

First and foremost with the publication of this first "Springbok Newsletter" it is sincerely hoped its life will grow mature with a volume of success.

In Regimental Headquarters there have been many changes. Lt-Col J F Merner, CD took command of the Regiment in May 51 replacing Lt-Col G J H Wattsford, CD who was posted to Command the Officer Candidate School in Camp Borden. Major G W Pearce took over the appointment of 2 i/c from Major F S Corbeau, and Capt A D M Matheson the appointment of Adjutant from Capt P V B Grieve. WO 1 C W Smith was posted to Headquarters Camp Petawawa as Camp Sergeant Major, with WO 1 H W Price, MBE being appointed RSM. Mr. Price has recently become the proud owner of a Doberman dog which he intends to train as escort for personnel on orders.

The summer of 1951 was trying with training in full swing. Since then the Regiment has published the successful completion of many Gnr Op, Dvr Mech, and Driver i/c qualifications.

The Regiment was fortunate enough to obtain authorization for hiring of civil servants which has helped immensely the clerical situation. Following are the changes in the staff insofar as Army personnel are concerned: Tpr Boucher P O - Part II Order Clerk was posted to the R 22 R in September 51 and Cpl C K Alward took over the reins. L/Cpl G R D Coleman - Records Clerk obtained a transfer to the RCASC, was posted to AHQ and since then has been promoted Corporal. Tpr J T McCarten replaced L/Cpl Coleman and has been on Records to date. Incidentally during McCarten's tour in Records he (it is rumoured) spent a wonderful holiday in the UK, that is approximately two months of it. Tpr D R Weir came to work in RHQ in August 51 replacing Tpr McMillan who was moved to work for the Technical Adjutant. Weir has since been switched to Records. Cpl E R Moore a long time clerk of RHQ was posted to I & A Cadre, Quebec Command, and has since been promoted to Sergeant. Letters received from Sgt Moore indicate the change was well worth while. Sergeant J H Hogan was fortunate enough in obtaining a posting to HQ Camp Petawawa taking over the job as Chief Clerk from Sgt Fowler. L/Cpl Carter came to work in Regimental Headquarters in June 52. It is now rumoured Carter is aiming to fill a certain Corporal Clerk Adm vacancy. The staff at Regimental Headquarters now consists of the following:

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C.O.

Lt-Col J F Merner, CD

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2 i/c

Major G W Pearce

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Adjutant

Capt A D M Matheson

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Assistant Adjutant

2/Lt W E Rosa, MM

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Intelligence Officer

2/Lt R H Langan

-----

RSM

WO 1 H W Price, MBE

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Chief Clerk

Sgt D E Van Allen

-----

NCO i/c Orderly Room

Cpl C K Alward

Central Registry

Tpr L C Powers

Records

Tpr J T McCarten

Tpr D R Weir

Miss J W Kilbey

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Part II Orders

L/Cpl N E Carter

Mr H Schouneman

Stenographer

Mr E Saar

Part I Orders

Miss C Brydges

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In July 52 all clerks of the Royal Canadian Dragoons held a very successful Weiner Roast at Black Bay. Many games of sport were played and there was lots of food on hand to eat. Some clerks it is understood required no nourishment the day following the Weiner Roast. Pictures were taken by the Adjutant Capt Matheson.

On the day of the writing of this article a meeting was held to form a club for clerks of the Regiment. A committee was appointed and are now happily on their way preparing the organization and functions of the club. All clerks are submitting a name for the club and the result will be decided at the first regular meeting. It is anticipated that when the next "Springbok Newsletter" goes to print there will be much to report.

"THE KID"  
The Kangaroo Court-Martial

They were trying Sammy Boulette and the truth was very plain,  
He was guilty of the charge and to fight the case was vain.  
Non-Coms both stern and solemn had their places in the room.  
And on the prisoner's face there still was dark despondent gloom,  
For they charged him with dishonor and the evidence was strong,  
He was thrown off guard mount because his pistol was not clean.  
Now the advocate presiding was a private very stern who addressed  
the court-room courtly making every sentence burn.  
We must take a drastic measure for dishonor we must stop  
For unneat soldiers are a menace, they are crummy and are base  
And the Court-Martial Law instructs us they shall work and be disgraced  
Now before preceding any further, Pvt. Boulette, have you anything to  
Answer the charges, are you guilty, yea or nay?  
The defendant sprang up quickly, trembling some and pale,  
But he spoke with many a stammer for his courage seemed to fail,  
Sir, I'm guilty of hishonor, that I would I could deny.  
But, sir Judge, I am no coward and I will not try to lie.  
I'll face your smiling jury and my counsel will do the rest.  
But, Pvt. Farrell, say not crummy for I did my very best.  
The Judge said that they would ballot so as to finish up the case,  
When Koval interrupted, stepping forward just one pace.  
Your permission, sir Pvt. may I say a word or two.  
And his face beamed out in smiles as he told the things he knew.  
Sir, you are about to try my buddy on a plain but crummy charge  
And I can't stand it any longer For 'twas my pistol that was barred.  
I've been with him in the barracks and I've bummed his camels too,  
In the kitchen or at the stables he always works true blue.  
He was wild to learn his recruit drill and never used to lag  
When the top was raging hardest and the boys were checking out,  
Boulette kept to barracks for he didn't have a cent.  
I was with him at that guard mount waiting for the zero hour.  
At the thought of coming to inspection Boulette's spirits seemed to flow  
While the Lewy's were inspecting and the Sgts. followed round,  
Boulette would grip the butt of pistol and hope that they wouldn't frown  
At the signal from the Lewy, he stepped forward just one pace,  
He was told about his pistol. It was crummy and was base  
Disregarding every private he held his head aloft,  
For he knew the worst was coming and to help him I could not.  
After that I won't remember for the guard was put on post  
And Boulette after that sent to barracks to clean what was not.  
Then we found ourselves together in this court room here.  
And I've tried to help him but as I owe him five bucks bare,  
Now I can't think of anything further.  
For I've lied both black and blue and if you make him scrub, the  
dayroom, why that is up to you.  
None spoke for several minutes and Koval took his seat and there was  
silence in the court, but the trial was not complete.  
For the judge sent out the jury, telling each and every one.  
That they must find him guilty and they did it all and one.  
He was guilty of dishonor to face the captain  
He must in his best and shining clothing and a pistol with no rust.

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (QUEBEC BRANCH)

(By Geoffry Williams)

It is with regret that we report the death of Major J. Lindsay Smeaton last April after a long illness.

Major Smeaton was first President of Quebec Old Comrades Association on its formation in 1946 and his connection with the Regiment dates back before the First War when he took courses at St. Johns and Stanley Barracks. He served with the Regiment in the Field in 1918 after going Overseas with the Canadian Mounted Rifles with whom he served in France also having a period with the Infantry.

Between the Wars he was Major and Adjutant of the Victoria Rifles of Canada for several years and in World War II was Company Commander in the Veterans Guard.

Among "Smeats" friends in the Regiment he will be remembered by Roy Nordheimer, "Terry" Newcomen, Doug Bowie and many other "old sweats".

Major Paul Gautier D.S.O. is now Lieut. Colonel commanding the 6th Duke of Yorks Hussars (A.C.), his N.P.A.M. unit before going to the Dragoons.

Had a good talk with Lt. Col. "Baldy" Muirhead at the Sir Arthur Currie Branch Legion dinner last Spring. At 75 he is still going strong, being in charge of Underwood Typewriter Company in Montreal.

Wishing the Newsletter a successful career and the best of luck to all serving members of the Regiment.

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION (TORONTO)

(By J B Harrison)

Having lain dormant for some little time, The Beast is howling again and we are receiving letters from strange officers at Petawawa regarding some news from Old Comrades. We forget how long it is since we had some news published and we fear we may repeat ourselves. Also the Editor limits us to two foolscap sheets which would not be enough even if we used shorthand.

It is now four years going on five, since we re-organized the Assn in Toronto, and as we look back on the four years of honest toil, we feel that it has been worth it. True, we are still mad at the 300 hundred odd Old Comrades who failed to answer any of our 41 letters or send us news regarding themselves, and we are only slightly bitter toward the few who told us to go jump in the lake, but all in all, we feel that progress is being made, and we look ahead to the time when the Springbok Club in Toronto will be a mecca for all ex-cavalry-men.

To sum up the activities during the past year, monthly meetings were held through the courtesy of the Sappers and Originals Clubs at which the reunion spirit was still dominant. Despite the last of nautical means of transportation, the picnic to Niagara-on-the-Lake was a very successful event, some five busloads of women, children, ex R.C.Ds and ex R.C.Rs making the trip by bus. Kind co-operation on the part of Glyn Morgan, Norm Archer, and Bing Raven all helped toward the success of the day, and the sporting events resulted (as it usually did) in a victory for the R.C.D. over their old enemies. A Feature of the sports programme was the achievement of Ruth Harrison who emulated the pre-war feats of her Dad in finishing away out in front in her event. (We have to put this in to save what remains of our scalp). Featured attendants included, Mr G. D. Churchward from London Ont., Mr A. Hilton, Mr J. MacLean and Mr A. F. Madden from Toronto, Robt Saunders, Chairman of Ontario Hydro, who let us leave the lights on this time, and Mr Sam Hill, Toronto Fire Marshall who saw that all lights were extinguished before the buses left. Col. Ellins represented the R.C.R. and we saw John Ryan, Nobby Clark, Weinie Lee, and a host of others from that quarter. It was a good day, but a bit expensive from the Association point of view, since the Gray Coach lines make no allowances for the cost of the meal.

Now, with winter coming on (we know for we have just bought our coal supply) we look forward to a season of varying festivities. Stan Merriam, who as well as being Secretary Treasurer, is also the big gun behind entertainment, has a very excellent programme lined up which briefly is as follows. Oct. 30th, Dance at the Sir Arthur Currie Memorial Hall on Isabella Street. November 28th, Ladies night at the same place, during which we are going to urge the re-organization of the Ladies Auxiliary. December, Election of Officers, January or Feb, Annual Stag, to mention just a few. The Cribbage Team are off toward another race for a large number of Trophies, and of interest here is the fact that Nort Deeth was again elected Secretary of the League, while yours truly, who sat thru' the Meeting thinking it was a Mess Meeting and it wasn't safe to talk, ended up with the office of Treasurer for the year. The team comprises some old timer R.C.Ds, like Fred Sturgess, Johnny Dowdell, Hugh Paterson and Norm Stafford, as well as a number of younger personnel such as Ross Fertile, R.C. Daniels, Lorne Marks and others.

About People: Danny Weir now owns the bus franchise from Niagara-on-the-Lake, to St Catherines and Port Dalhousie, but he states that Membership Cards will not entitle the bearer to free transportation. Art Loader, now a policeman, made the headlines when he rescued a man from a car which had gone over the bridge at Sunnyside. Gerry Wright, is Governor of Burwash Jail, and Dave Robertson owns the Parkdale Motors where a Cadillac can be borrowed at any time provided you leave a deposit. Joe Manning was a visitor to Toronto during September, and John Copeland has all but joined the Navy. He is employed at H.M.C.S. York, but whether he furls the main to 'c's'l or not, we don't know.

From Ilorin, Nigeria, West Africa, we hear of W. D. Tucker who is a Missionary there and asks for letters. That address will get him, while a visitor from south of the border during the Exhibition, was Jake M Lord, now at Washington at the Canadian Military Attaché. Jake looks very well and is very American even though he picked Brooklyn for the World Series. Bev Hook, at Richmond Hill; G. W. Douglass, Agincourt Ont., something in Customs; W. Murdoch, London Life Insurance Co.; and J. H. Roberts, Schenleys Distilleries, are others we have seen during the summer.

While we are sorry to see the Springbok lose its attractive setup, we are glad to see that a determined effort is being made to revive the Journal. We will still welcome any enquiries from Old Comrades as to their pals, even from any of the 300 mentioned in para 2, and we shall try and connect you with anyone you ask after.

ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS ANNUAL SPORTS MEET

27 AUGUST 1952

On Wednesday, August 27th, the Royal Canadian Dragoons held their fifth Annual Track and Field Meet on the main Camp Sports Field. Beneath clear skies and a hot sun, the athletes started early, and went on from start to finish through a ding-dong friendly battle, with the final result hinging on the last pull of the Tug of War.

The day commenced with a march past of the squadron athletes, led by the Regimental trumpet band, with the salute being taken by the Commanding Officer, Lt-Col. J. F. Merner, C.D. The first event, heats of the 100 yard dash, followed immediately by the hammer throw. Right from the beginning it could be seen that it was going to be a closely contested meet. No one squadron could gain any sort of substantial lead. By lunch time, with six of the 19 finals completed, the standing was: H.Q. 7; "A" 17, "B" 14, "D" 16. The contestants returned from lunch with renewed vigor, and the knowledge that their chances in the meet hung on every step or jump or throw. The competition grew keener as the day progressed, till at the last, with the final tug of war tied at one pull each, between "B" and "D", the meet score stood: H.Q. 37, "A" 45, "B" 39, and "D" 42. Baker won the pull to give them the six points, with Dog garnering the second place two points. The final squadron standing was then: H.Q. 37, "A" 45, "B" 45 and "D" 44. Able and Baker are thus joint winners of the Ardgah Trophy for the year 1952.

For the individual honors and the Victoria Day Trophy, it was a close battle throughout between Tpr. Perkins and Capt. Beament. Perkins, with a gigantic, record smashing heave in the javelin throw came out the victor with 19 points, and Capt. Beament's second in this same event gave him second place in the aggregate standing with 18 points, and the high field aggregate. 2/Lt. Galligan's two fine wins in the 220 and 440 gave him the high track aggregate for the day.

Some Highlights of the Meet:

Tpr. Perkins hard driving in all his events, culminated in his record breaking javelin throw and winning the Victoria Day Trophy.

S.S. Douglas's fine efforts in coaching his "B" Sqn., tug team to a hard fought and well earned victory.

Cpl. Meeker's win in the 100 yard dash in the fast time of 10.6 seconds.

All those with any experience of the Regiment agree that this was the best Meet in the Unit's history. The competitors made the day, and the organizing committee under Capt. Beament, and noting particularly the fine work of S.S.M. Deeming, did much to see that the day was the success it proved.

The Regiment thanks the following merchants of the Pembroke-Petawawa area for their kindness in donating towards the prize fund:

Heney-Levoy Shoes, W.F. Kohls, Royal Furniture Company, Specialty Shop, Fortiers, Landen's, Montaigne's, Walker Stores, Cockburn & Archer, Smiths' Clothing, Jack Snow, Morphy & McGillis, Len Kohls, J. Deacon Taylor, Peter Morris, Woolworth's Limited, Rowan's Drugs Mulvihill's drugs, Wallace Shoes, Purcell's Bailey's Sports Centre, T. Eaton Company Limited, Copeland Hotel, Giesebricht's.

The events and results were as follows:

Event No. 1 - Hammer throw: 1st place, Beament, D Sqn.; 2nd place, Mahoney, B Sqn.; 3rd place, McCormick, A Sqn. Distance 75'6". Points, B Sqn., 4; D Sqn., 5.

Event No. 2 - Softball throw: 1st place, Perkins, A Sqn.; 2nd place, Pomeroy, H.Q. Sqn.; 3rd place, Ainsworth, A Sqn. Distance, 271'1". Points, H.Q. Sqn., 3; A Sqn., 6.

Event No. 3 - Hop, Step and Jump: Meeker, A Sqn.; 2nd place, Shears, H.Q. Sqn.; 3rd place, Atlas, B Sqn. Distance, 37' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Points, H.Q. Sqn., 3; A Sqn., 5; B Sqn., 1.

Event No. 4 - 1 Mile run: 1st place, Perkins, A Sqn.; 2nd place Bernard, D Sqn.; 3rd place, Bradford, F Sqn. Time, 5 mins., 26.3 sec. Points, A Sqn., 5; B Sqn., 1; D Sqn., 3.

Event No. 5 - Standing broad jump: 1st place, Beament, D Sqn; 2nd place, Grenon, D Sqn.; 3rd place, Shears, H.Q. Sqn. Distance, 8' 9". Points, H.Q. Sqn. 1; D Sqn., 8.

Event No. 6 - Discus throw: 1st place, Patterson, B Sqn.; 2nd place, Mahoney, B Sqn.; 3rd place, Ainsworth, A Sqn. Distance, 94' 6". Points, A Sqn., 1; B Sqn., 2.

Event No. 7 - 110 yd. dash: 1st place, Meeker, A Sqn.; 2nd place, Carey, H.Q. Sqn.; 3rd place, Perkins, A Sqn. Time, 10.6 sec's. Points, H.Q. Sqn., 3; A Sqn., 6.

Event No. 8 - Short put: 1st place, Beament, D Sqn.; 2nd place, Grenon, D Sqn.; 3rd place, Currier, B Sqn. Distance 36' 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Points b Sqn., 1; D Sqn., 8.

Event No. 9 - 800 yd. run: 1st place, Carey, H.Q. Sqn.; 2nd place, Perkins, A Sqn.; 3rd place, Bradford, B Sqn. Time, 2.21 sec's. Points H.Q. Sqn., 5; a Sqn. 3; B Sqn., 1.

Event No. 10 - Running broad jump: 1st place, Shears, H.Q. Sqn.; 2nd place, Meeker, A Sqn.; 3rd place, Livingston, A Sqn. Distance, 18'. Points H.Q. Sqn., 5; A Sqn. 4.

Event No. 11 - 220 yd. dash: 1st place, Galligan, D Sqn.; 2nd place, Scott, B Sqn. Time, 27.3 sec's. Points, B Sqn., 3; D Sqn., 5.

Event No. 12 - High jump: 1st place, Hennessy, A Sqn.; 2nd place, Carey, H.Q. Sqn.; 3rd place Shears, H.Q. Sqn. Height, 5'1". Points, H.Q. Sqn., 4; A Sqn., 5.

Event No. 13 - 3 mile run: 1st place, Burleau, B Sqn.; 2nd place, Stocker, A Sqn.; 3rd place, Bernard, D Sqn. Time 20 mins, 37 sec. Points, A Sqn., 3; B Sqn., 5; D Sqn., 1.

Event No. 14 - Pole vault: 1st place, Currier, B Sqn.; 2nd place Knox, B Sqn.; 3rd place, Warner, A Sqn. Height, 9' Points, A Sqn., 1; B Sqn., 8.

Event No. 15 - 440 yd. dash: 1st place, Galligan, D Sqn.; 2nd place Scott, B Sqn.; 3rd place, Pomeroy, H.Q. Sqn. Time 1 min. 5 sec. Points, H.Q. Sqn., 1; B Sqn., 3; D Sqn., 5.

Event No. 16 - Javelin throw: 1st place, Perkins, A Sqn.; 2nd place, Beament, D Sqn.; 3rd place, Meeker, A Sqn. Distance, 152' Points, A Sqn., 6; D Sqn., 3.

Event No. 17 - 440 yd. relay: 1st place, H.Q.'s Sqn.; 2nd place, D. Sqn.; 3rd place, B Sqn. Time, 52 sec. Points, H.Q. Sqn., 6; B Sqn., 1; D Sqn., 3.

Event No. 18 - Tug of war: 1st place, B Sqn.; 2nd place, D Sqn. Points, B Sqn., 6; D Sqn., 2.

Event No. 19 - 880 yd. relay: 1st place, H.Q.'s Sqn.; 2nd place, B Sqn; 3rd place, D Sqn. Time, 1 min 47.8 sec. Points, H.Q. Sqn., 6; B Sqn., 3; D Sqn., 1.

Total points: H.Q. Sqn., 37; S Sqn., 45; B Sqn., 45; D Sqn., 44.

High track, 2/Lt. Galligan; high field, Capt. Beament; grand aggregate, Tpr. Perkins.

## THE CENTURION

### FROM A TROOP LEADER'S VIEWPOINT

(By Lt. A. J. K. Rasmussen)

This article will not be a learned treatise on the Centurion but merely a discussion of the vehicle from the troop Leader's viewpoint.

Firstly, let us consider one of the main reasons for having a tank. It is to move the largest gun in the quickest manner to the point where it will be the most useful. Let us see how the Centurion fills these requirements.

The 20 pounder with which the Centurion tank is equipped is one of the largest guns mounted on a medium tank to date. However, the value of this gun is not only in its size but in its startling accuracy. Due to a lateral and vertical stabilization unit mounted in the vehicle this gun has an amazing accuracy enabling it to be fired on the move with greater effect than most previous tanks had from stationery positions. Obviously then the first requirement of the two listed above is fulfilled.

Considering the weight of the vehicle (52 tons) the top speed of 21 m.p.h. is quite good. A tank of this size with a higher rate of speed would be very difficult to manoeuvre. It is possible however to increase the speed of the Centurion. At present the engine is governed at 2550 revolutions per minute. By adjusting the governor weights we could increase the speed. This however, brings in certain factors which must be dealt with. If the speed is to be increased it would mean that the suspension unit must be altered in order to stand up to this additional strain. Increasing the size of the suspension unit means additional weight; additional weight in turn would do one of two things: Either shorten the life of the existing power unit or --- Necessitate the installation of a more powerful and therefore heavier engine. We can see therefore that its speed is as great as its design will allow.

Let us consider now some of the factors which affect the troop leader to a greater degree. These are such things as manoeuvrability, silhouette, armour, maintenance and crew accommodation.

The Centurion, albeit a large tank can be quite easily manoeuvred in close country. The tank can turn completely around in its own length, accomplishing what is called a "neutral stall turn". This will enable the crew commander to position the vehicle in rocky or fairly heavily wooded areas.

There has been some discussion that the Centurian is not as well suited to the Korean theatre as is the Sherman. No doubt this is true. In general the Korean countryside divides itself into two distinct types of terrain; the mountainous or hilly regions, and the soft marshy rice paddy regions. One must remember that the Sherman is approximately 16 tons lighter than the Centurion. This in itself would enable the Sherman to traverse regions which would be impenetrable for the Centurion. It must be kept in mind that the Centurion was designed for a specific task. When the designers produced the vehicle they had in mind the plains and lowlands of Central and Western Europe. Certainly in any forthcoming struggle the majority of British effort would be concentrated in this theatre. I think that any of "C" Squadron returning from Germany will bear me out in the statement, that the Centurian is ideally suited for that type of terrain.

The Centurion is as I mentioned 16 tons heavier than the Sherman, yet measured from the ground to the top of the Crew Commander hatch it is no higher. By virtue of this fact it will be no more difficult for the trooper to find suitable fire positions for it than for the Sherman.

In Armour one runs into a diversity of opinion. Some argue that tanks should be very lightly armoured and others that they should be heavily armoured. I won't delve into the merits of either case other than to say that being a very junior officer, the more armour, the better I will feel. The Centurion is a well armoured vehicle; ample protection is provided for the turret crew who have nothing to fear from small arms, mortar or high explosive. The driver, in this vehicle has more protection than any other member of the crew. The glassis place on the front is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick; however it is mounted at a 55 degree angle giving it an actual penetrative thickness of approximately 8 inches. This should add immeasurably to the inducement potential of a Dvr Mech (T) position.

In considering maintenance we run into one of less favourable aspects of the Centurion. Being an internal combustion engine, and a Rolls Royce at that, it requires far more care than a diesel engine would. It is common knowledge that the diesel engine can be subjected to far greater abuse than the gasoline engine and still function. Furthermore, we have an additional disadvantage in the fact that we have one less crew member. The Co-driver (jack of all trades) is no longer with us; therefore his work plus the additional maintenance must devolve upon the driver and the other members of the crew.

To discuss crew accommodation of the Centurion one must consider a multitude of factors, some of which by now are likely very well known to the reader. The stowage bins on the sides provide ample space for the stowing of all personal gear and rations, besides offering to a certain degree additional protection to the crew from such infantry weapons as PIAT's and bazookas. Inside the turret we find that there is considerably more room than was offered by the Sherman. The turret also offers several safety devices that were absent in previous armoured vehicles, e.g., a loader-operator's safety traverse switch, which prevents the turret from being traversed until the wireless operator has his feet clear; a loaders safety switch, which prevents the main gun from being fired until the loader has his arm clear.

Symbolizing the ultimate in comfort we find in the Centurion a ten gallon water tank which holds water for drinking and washing purposes. Further to this there is an immersion heater which serves a variety of purposes. It can bring water to boiling point in 6 minutes, enabling the crew to have coffee, tea, or whatever other hot beverage they may wish. It can further be used for cooking rations or most important of all for heating the troop leader's shaving water each morning.

In conclusion let me point out that the Centurion is an ideal tank for infantry tank co-operation work. Its accurate fire, speed, good communication, (both on wireless and infantry phone) manoeuvrability, and troop carrying capacity make it an ideal tank for this purpose.

Again may I reiterate that this is not a learned discussion of the Centurion but only a troop leader's view of it. The tank undoubtedly has faults and advantages that I have not mentioned here. These pro's and con's will no doubt be amply aired in the near future when the vehicle comes into general use in the Canadian Army.